Honoring the Life
of

Edward V. Melfort

In Worship
and
Fond Remembrance

March 2, 1995
First Congregational Church
Oroville , California

The Last Request

Please don't say that I gave up, just say I gave in.
Don't say that I lost the battle,
for it was God's war to lose or win.
Please don't say how good I was, but that I did my best.
Just say I tried to do what's right,
to give the most I could, not to do less.
Please don't give me wings or halos, that's for God to do.
I want no more than I deserve, no extras, just my due.
Please don't give flowers or talk in harsh tones.
Don't be concerned about me now,
I'm well with God, I've made it home.
Don't talk about what could have been,
its over and its done.
Just see to my family's needs, the battle has been won.

When you draw a picture of me,
don't draw me as a saint. I've done some good,
I've done some wrong, so use all your paint,
not just the bright and light tones.
Use some gray and dark,
in fact don't put me down on canvas,
paint me in your heart.
Don't just remember good times,
but remember some bad.
For life is full of many things,
some happy and some sad,
but if you must do something
then I have one last request.

Forgive me the wrong I've done
and with the love that's left,
Thank God for my soul's resting.
Thank God for I've been blessed.
Thank God for all who loved me.
Praise God who loved me best.

ORGAN PRELUDE Joyce Graves

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 100

* HYMN 391 Be Thou My Vision

* RESPONSIVE AFFIRMATION

Minister: We have gathered here this day to honor and celebrate the life, the friendship, the love, the devotion to community and the faithful Christian ministry of the Rev. Edward Melfort. This day we share the joy of his memory, the legacy of his labors, the hope of his dreams. All this we do in faith and fellowship. Come, let us be united in worship, glad celebration and fond memory.

Everyone: Eternal God, be within our hearts as we share this time of praise and worship. We give you thanks for the miracle and mystery of life that is your sacred gift to us. We give you thanks for the life and labor of your servant Ed Melfort. May your Grace be upon Audrey and the family; guard, guide and uphold them in all the days to come. Praise be to you, Most Gracious God. Amen.

* THE GLORIA PATRI

SELECTED READINGS

Psalm 90: 1 - 12
Rev. David W. Caston Sr.

Gospel of John 14: 1 - 6
Rev. Jewel B. Dewittey

Second Corinthians 5: 1 - 10
Rev. Walter Rice

ORGAN INTERLUDE

EULOGY — Dr. Ezekiel Habersham

FAMILY TRIBUTE

In Shared Thought
Eric Seabrook

In Affirming Songs of Praise:
Love Opened Doors For Me
Just A Closer Walk With Thee
Have Thine Own Way
Frances Martin and Jessie Santos

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF EXPRESSED LOVE
Mert Thomas Dr. Betty Carr

ORGAN MEDITATION

REFLECTION

The First Miracle
Rev. Lawrence E. Walter

MEMORIAL PRAYERS — Rev. David Finster

In shared voice

Eternal God, Creator and Sustainor of all Life, we give you thanks for Ed Melfort's life, faith, love and unyielding devotion to high principle and worthy endeavor. On this day, as we seek to embrace him once more, we pray that you will bestow your Spirit upon us, that you will grant to us the assurance that you hold all of life in your care and keeping and that you will hold Audrey and the family in close comfort. Help us, O God, to cherish his life and legacy. Hear now our quiet prayers of thanksgiving and praise.

In the quietness of heart
In praise and supplication

89.b

ASSURANCE OF FAITH

* HYMN 306 For All The Saints {vs. 1, 2, 4}

BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

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Following our time at Memorial Park
You are cordially invited to return here
to the Church Social Hall
for fellowship and refreshment

Audrey invites those wishing to
honor Edward through a memorial gift
to consider the
Campership Fund of
First Congregational Church
and the
American Heart Association
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Sharing in Worship and Remembrance

Dr. Betty Carr
Family Friend

Rev. David W. Caston Sr.
Bethel A. M. E. Church, Marysville

Rev. Jewel B. Dewittey
Allen Chapel, Sacramento

Rev. David Finster
Niles Congregational United Church of Christ
Freemont

Joyce Graves
Organist
First Congregational Church
Oroville

Dr. Ezekiel Habersham
Presiding Elder
San Francisco/Sacramento District
California Conference
African Methodist Episcopal Church

Frances Martin
Daughter

Rev. Walter Rice
Faith Community United Church of Christ
Sacramento

Jessie Santos
Daughter

Eric Seabrook
Son

Mert Thomas
City of Oroville

Rev. Lawrence E. Walter
First Congregational Church
Oroville

Bearers

Sean L. Armstrong
Leonardo T. Glaze Jr.
Sebastian L. Glaze Jr.
Attyah M. Hicks
Deltay D. Hill
Edward V. Melfort III
Karlton I. Seabrook
Charles L. Wilkerson

Honorary Bearers

Rev. Elbert Cunningham
Elder Forrest
Rev. Carl Fowler Sr.
Rev. James Matthews III
Rev. Don North
Roosevelt Savanah Jr.
John Paul Stewart
Rev. Mert Thomas

Arrangements By:
Oroville Funeral Home
Mr. David Davis
Director

Rev. Edward V. Melfort Sr.

December 25, 1924 - February 25, 1995

Our dear friend and Pastor leaves a legacy rich in his love for family and friends, exemplary in his dedication to his faith and distinct in his devotion to his community.

Rev. Melfort and his wife, Audrey, have made their home here in Oroville since 1980.

Following his Naval career, he continued his education by completing his Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from Central Washington State and then receiving the Master of Divinity degree from Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley. Ordained to Christian Ministry by the United Church of Christ, he served churches from Berkeley to Sacramento and Los Angeles to Yakima, Washington. His deep sensitivity to the needs of persons from all walks of life endeared him to all who had the privilege of working with him. He was particularly concerned with, and active in, poverty programs.

Rev. Melfort was instrumental in establishing the on-going Martin Luther King Jr. Expo and Job Fair in Sacramento. In Oroville, he was the coordinator of the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Birthday Celebration. He served on the Community Action Agency's Board of Directors and was a member of the Cooperating Christian Churches of Oroville and the Butte County Pastoral and Ministerial Alliance. He had been an active member of the First Congregational Church in Oroville and the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Marysville. He often preached at various other northern California churches. As president of the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored people, he started a student chapter at California State University at Chico.

Rev. Melfort helped promote educational opportunities to enable others to improve their quality of life and to encourage unity and harmony among all people.

The Reverend Edward Melfort Sr. will be esteemed and remembered for his tireless commitment to his convictions.

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Melfort, Edward